

VF-41

ECCC

Convocation
honoring

Dr. Eddie M. Smith

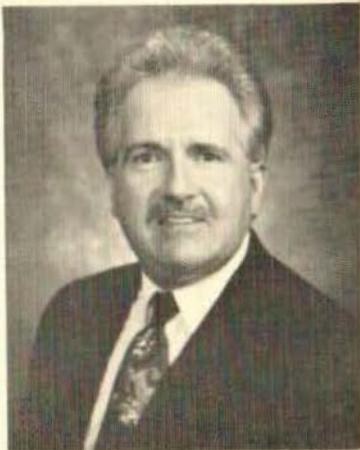


upon the naming of the
Eddie M. Smith Student Union

Saturday, May 6, 2000 • 2:00 pm

DR. EDDIE M. SMITH

College President 1985–2000



Dr. Eddie M. Smith began his tenure as the sixth president of East Central Community College in July 1985. When he retires on June 30, 2000, Dr. Smith will have served almost 36 years in the field of education.

Through Dr. Smith's leadership, the College experienced phenomenal growth in numerous areas. Enrollment increased each year and reached the 2,228 mark for the 1999 fall term. East Central also began offering programs of study in the health-related field, including surgical technology, licensed practical nursing and associate degree nursing. Also added were gerontology technology and computer networking technology. In addition, a new course of study — science and technology — was included in the curriculum. East Central also increased its evening class schedule, with classes offered throughout the College's five-county district.

Various renovations and additions were also made to the College's buildings during Dr. Smith's tenure. East Central purchased the former Newton County High School property (earlier Decatur High School) and made extensive renovations. The area is now referred to as the College's South Campus and includes classroom and laboratory space, faculty offices and a library for the town of Decatur.

New buildings constructed under Dr. Smith's leadership included the Associate Degree Nursing/Child Care Technology Building, the Workforce Development Center (previously called the Skill/Tech One-Stop Career Center), Erma Lee Barber Hall, a new women's dormitory named in honor of the former ECCC dean of women, and the Eddie M. Smith Student Union, named in honor of Dr. Smith.

The College also increased its efforts in the area of alumni relations and fundraising with the creation of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations in 1996. By the fall of 1999, the ECCC Foundation had secured over \$1 million in cash and in-kind contributions.

Among projects completed through the Foundation include the Welcome Home Archway and electronic marquee. The new archway is a re-creation of a similar structure that greeted campus visitors from 1950 to the early 1970s. A new half-mile fitness trail was developed near the softball field and College lake, and a campus tree planting/landscaping project was also completed.

In the area of athletics, new sports added during Dr. Smith's presidency included softball and soccer. East Central also began rodeo competition as an intercollegiate sport. Highlights in the sports area include a Region 23 championship by

the Lady Warrior basketball team, a first-ever state title by the Warrior baseball team, a state crown by the Warrior basketball squad and the first bowl game victory by the Warrior football team in several decades. Numerous student-athletes were named NJCAA Academic All-Americans, and following one season the Warrior golf and tennis teams were selected NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year.

In the area of technology, the College became fully involved in the "Information Age." Course requirements and other information were added to East Central's web page. A toll free number was provided to further assist students interested in attending East Central.

Dr. Smith also established the College's first system of strategic planning to assure institutional effectiveness. In addition, he has twice led the College through its reaffirmation of accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Prior to beginning his tenure at East Central, Dr. Smith served as District Dean of Instruction at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson. He previously held the titles of Dean and Campus Director for Co-Lin's Natchez campus.

In addition, he is a former Acting Director of the Natchez Center of the University of Southern Mississippi where he also taught various science-related courses. He earlier served as assistant principal and classroom teacher for Natchez-Adams Public Schools.

A native of Hernando, Mississippi, Dr. Smith attended public schools in Jackson prior to graduating from Noxapater High School. He received an Associate of Arts degree at East Central Junior College, and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University. He received his doctorate at the University of Southern Mississippi.

He is a member of Clarke-Venable Baptist Church, where he has held numerous positions of leadership and continues to serve as organist. He is also a former president of the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce and Decatur Lions Club.

In addition, he is a member and former president of various professional organizations. Among associations he has led are the Mississippi Association of Colleges and the Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges. He continues to serve as Presidential Ambassador for the Mississippi/Louisiana Region of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

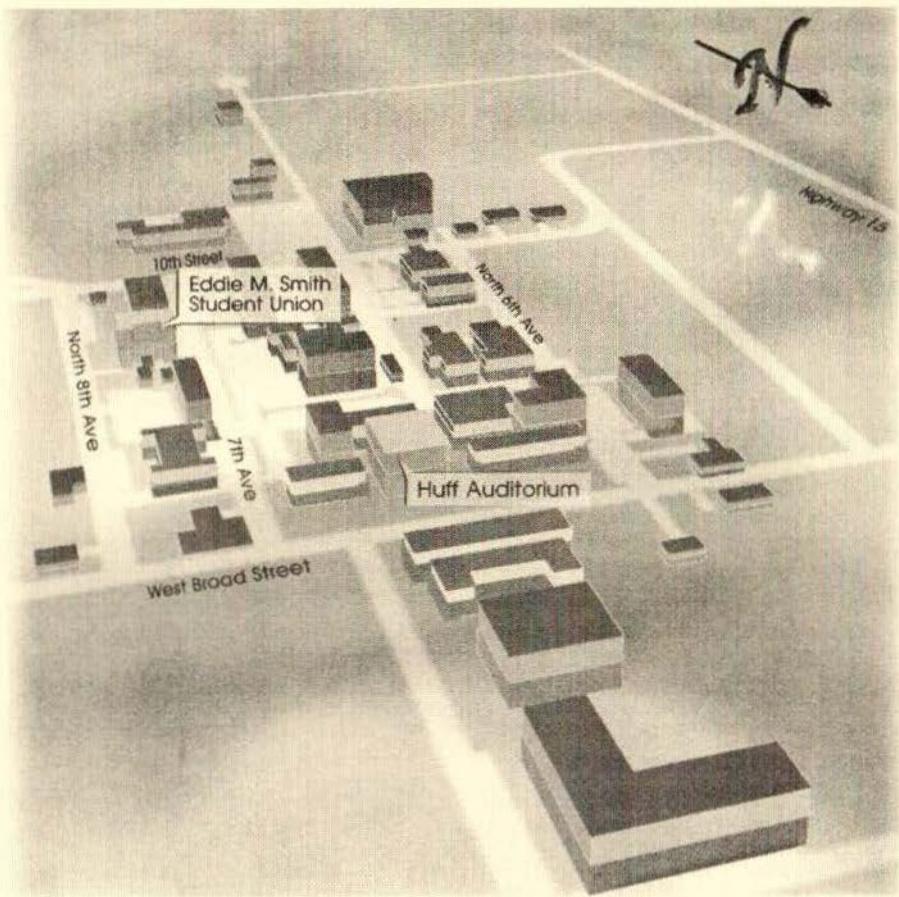
Honors he has received include the Phi Theta Kappa Bennett Award of Distinction and the National Leadership Award presented by the College of Education, University of Texas at Austin. He was also selected Outstanding Educator in American Colleges and Universities, Outstanding Young Man of America and Outstanding Biology Teacher of Mississippi, presented by the group's national association. He was chosen Alumnus of the Year at East Central Community College in 1989.

He is married to the former Charlotte Flowers of Natchez, a kindergarten teacher at Newton County Elementary School. They have two daughters, Dr. Kelli Smith, a medical doctor in Magee, and Wendy Smith, who directs the junior high choral program for Forest Public Schools.

PROGRAM

PRELUDE	EC Brass Quintet
PROCESSIONAL	Prelude to Die Meistersinger by Wagner
WELCOME	Dr. Phil Sutphin, Dean of Instruction and President-Elect East Central Community College
INVOCATION	Reverend Stan Buckley, Pastor, Clarke-Venable Memorial Baptist Church
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Ac'cents East Central Community College
INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKERS	Dr. Phil Sutphin
SPEAKERS	Dr. Richard Ethridge of Decatur Retired Chairman, Division of Social Science & Education, East Central Community College
	Mr. Henry B. "Bubba" Hudspeth of Louisville, Former Chairman, East Central Community College Board of Trustees Current Member, Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
	Mr. Ovid Vickers of Decatur Retired Chairman, Division of Communication and Fine Arts, East Central Community College

RESOLUTION	Mr. Terry C. Burton of Newton, State Senator; Chairman, Universities & Colleges Committee
RESOLUTION	Mr. Jack Winstead of Lawrence, Vice Chairman, East Central Board of Trustees
RESPONSE	Dr. Eddie M. Smith, President, East Central Community College
BENEDICTION	Reverend Billy Owen, Decatur United Methodist Church
RECESSATIONAL	Prelude to Act Three <i>Lohengrin</i> by Wagner
ADJOURN TO EDDIE M. SMITH STUDENT UNION BUILDING	(see map on next page)
PRESENTATION OF BOOK OF LETTERS AND GIFT	Dr. Phil Sutphin



Map of East Central Community College. Locations of today's events are indicated.

N O T E S

ECC
WITH YOU IN MIND

VF-41

ECCC

Dr. Eddie M. Smith
1985, 2000

You are cordially invited
to attend the

Ground Breaking Ceremony
for the

Phase I Construction
of the

Student Union Building
East Central Community College
May 12, 1998, 2:30 p.m.
South of Leake Hall
Main Campus
Decatur, Mississippi





